



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re patent application of

Takeshi KAMIO, et al.

Serial No.: 09/987,404

Group Art Unit: 1731

Filed: November 14, 2001

Examiner: Fiorilla, Christopher A.

For: METHOD FOR SINTERRING POROUS-GLASS MATERIAL, METHOD
FOR MANUFACTURING PREFORM AND OPTICAL FIBER, AND
POROUS-GLASS MATERIAL

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION AND
RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated October 2, 2003, please consider the following:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Remarks begin on page 2 of this paper.